



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

May 13, 1998

**H.R. 1690**

**A bill to amend Title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 6, 1998*

CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts, so pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 1690 would make several changes and clarifications to the current laws relating to child custody and visitation cases. It attempts to enhance the rights of grandparents in these disputes. The bill also would permit the transfer of jurisdiction from state courts to the federal courts in certain cases, which could result in additional costs to federal courts. Because we do not expect many such actions, we estimate that implementing H.R. 1690 would have no significant effect on the caseload of the federal court system.

H.R. 1690 would require state courts to enforce visitation rulings made in the courts of other states. This requirement would be an intergovernmental mandate as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) in those cases where a state does not currently recognize visitation orders issued by a court in another state. However, the mandate would have a minimal impact on the budgets of state, local, and tribal governments because the number of cases involving disputes about the proper application of state visitation orders is small. This bill contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for federal costs), and Leo Lex (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.